

September 12, 2005

Howard seeks increase in K-12 funding

Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard will ask state lawmakers to boost basic support for public school operating expenses and staff salaries in 2006-07.

"The past four years of level funding during a time of rising costs for health insurance, gasoline for buses, and other areas have eroded the capacity of schools to offer even basic educational programs," Howard said. "This request is a way to stay even and take a couple of steps forward."

Howard is seeking a \$47.5 million increase in funds the state forwards to school districts to pay staff salaries and benefits. Overall, the increase would pay for anticipated enrollment growth, higher qualifications for staff, a change in state retirement, and a 3 percent base salary increase for teachers.

Howard noted that the state's base salaries for most school staff have not increased over the past five years. "Many of our teachers are nearing retirement age, and we've got to attract new teachers to the profession if we want to keep teachers in every classroom," she said.

Howard submitted the school spending plan to the Office of the Governor today. After the Legislature convenes in January, she will outline her proposal for state lawmakers.

The proposal also includes estimates to phase in new initiatives being discussed this fall at hearings throughout the state. Because of the timing of the budget process, Howard noted, documents were due before the public had a chance to comment on the ideas, which means the requests might change once more information is available.

The initiatives and the estimates include:

- \$5.6 million for new physical education requirements, calculated at \$50 per child. The cost includes adding highly qualified P.E. teachers to improve the health and physical fitness of Idaho's children;
- \$1.45 million for the first stage of high school reform in Idaho. The funds would be used to provide special training for middle school math teachers and to prepare more high school teachers to offer advanced or accelerated classes.

Other budget items include permission to spend another \$1.6 million on the Safe and Drug-free Schools program, an increase paid for by revenues from a large lottery jackpot winner in Idaho, and \$2.2 million for school transportation

programs, which includes funding to comply with a legislative decision to support computer equipment offered by on-line charter schools to parents of the schools' students.

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Public School Support Program
Distribution Factor

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Increase / (Decrease)	% Change
1 APPROPRIATIONS				
a. General Fund	\$987,110,000	\$1,046,829,800	\$59,719,800	6.0%
b. Endowment / Lands, Lottery Dividend, Misc. Revenues	\$40,532,800	\$44,716,800	\$4,184,000	10.3%
c. Cigarette and Lottery Taxes	4,700,000	6,300,000	1,600,000	34.0%
TOTAL DEDICATED REVENUES	\$45,232,800	\$51,016,800	\$5,784,000	12.8%
TOTAL STATE REVENUES	\$1,032,342,800	\$1,097,846,600	\$65,503,800	6.3%
d. Federal Funds	\$165,000,000	\$175,000,000	\$10,000,000	6.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,197,342,800	\$1,272,846,600	\$75,503,800	6.3%
2 PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION				
a. Property Tax Replacement	\$75,000,000	\$75,000,000	\$0	0.0%
b. Transportation	60,521,600	62,742,000	2,220,400	3.7%
c. Border Contracts	800,000	800,000	0	0.0%
d. Exceptional Contracts and Tuition Equivalents	5,750,000	5,750,000	0	0.0%
e. Floor	395,500	0	(395,500)	-100.0%
f. Program Adjustments	400,000	435,000	35,000	8.8%
g. Salary-based Apportionment	697,958,200	734,471,200	36,513,000	5.2%
h. Teacher Incentive Award (Nat'l Bd Cert)	696,400	313,200	(383,200)	-55.0%
i. State Paid Employee Benefits	124,911,700	135,978,900	11,067,200	8.9%
j. Unemployment	1,250,000	1,250,000	0	0.0%
k. Early Retirement Payout	4,600,000	4,750,000	150,000	3.3%
l. Substance Abuse	4,700,000	6,300,000	1,600,000	34.0%
m. Bond Levy Equalization Support Program	4,527,500	5,300,000	772,500	17.1%
Building Student Success:				
n. Technology Grants	9,500,000	9,500,000	0	0.0%
o. Idaho Reading Initiative	2,800,000	2,800,000	0	0.0%
p. Limited English Proficient (LEP)	5,060,000	5,290,000	230,000	4.5%
q. Idaho Digital Learning Academy	900,000	900,000	0	0.0%
r. High School Reform	0	1,450,000	1,450,000	NA
s. Physical Education Initiative	0	5,600,000	5,600,000	NA
Professional Development:				
t. Gifted and Talented (Teacher Training)	500,000	500,000	0	0.0%
u. Federal Funds for Local School Districts	165,000,000	175,000,000	10,000,000	6.1%
v. School Facilities Funding	8,922,500	16,072,900	7,150,400	80.1%
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$1,174,193,400	\$1,250,203,200	\$76,009,800	6.5%
Education Stabilization Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
3 NET STATE FUNDING AVAILABLE	\$23,149,400	\$22,643,400	(\$506,000)	-2.2%
4 SUPPORT UNITS	13,150.0	13,450.0	300.0	2.3%
5 NET STATE FUNDING PER SUPPORT UNIT (includes \$300 for Safe Environment Provisions)	\$1,760.00	\$1,684.00	(\$76.00)	-4.3%
6 EQUALIZATION				
Adjusted Market Value	\$81,500,000,000	\$94,904,500,000	\$13,404,500,000	16.4%
Urban renewal	1,550,000,000	1,100,000,000	(450,000,000)	-29.0%
Rural Electric Association (REA)	135,000,000	150,000,000	15,000,000	11.1%
Mines Net Profit Decrease	0	0	0	NA
Total Market Value	\$83,185,000,000	\$96,154,500,000	\$12,969,500,000	15.6%
Equalization Rate X	0.00392	X 0.00379		
Total Equalization	\$326,240,000	\$364,713,500	\$38,473,500	11.8%
District Taxes not Equalized	(24,650,000)	(38,600,000)	(13,950,000)	56.6%
7 NET EQUALIZATION	\$301,590,000	\$326,113,500	\$24,523,500	8.1%
8 NET EQUALIZATION PER SUPPORT UNIT	\$22,935.00	\$24,246.00	\$1,311.00	5.7%
9 DISTRIBUTION FACTOR	\$24,695.00	\$25,930.00	\$1,235.00	5.0%